FESTIVAL HONOREE COMPOSER: Nedim Yıldız

FESTIVAL REGULATIONS

FESTIVAL MISSION

To promote the culture of polyphonic choral music in our country.

FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage and expand the development of polyphonic choral music in our country.
2. To bring together the leaders, conductors, educators, and participants of institutions and groups engaged in choral music for social, cultural, and professional integration and knowledge exchange.
3. To ensure the reach of choral music to the general public.
4. To introduce our composers' works to the global polyphonic choral music repertoire through our choirs.
5. To create a bridge between global polyphonic music and our country.
6. To promote the proliferation and popularization of choral festivals and competitions in Turkey, as in the rest of the world.
7. To institutionalize choral conducting education and motivate the training of new conductors.

FESTIVAL REGULATİONS

8. Participating choirs are encouraged to perform a piece by this year's honoree composer, Nedim Yıldız, which would be a gesture of respect and may also increase their chances of recognition in the award category named after the composer.
9. All types of polyphonic choirs performing accompanied or a cappella works (children's, youth, women's, men's, mixed choirs, and vocal ensembles) can participate in the festival.
10. A conductor may participate with a maximum of two choirs in different categories.
11. Due to stage limitations, a choir can consist of up to 80 participants.
12. Choirs' stage time should be at least 10 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes, including applause breaks, stage arrangements, and bows. Exceeding the time limit may negatively impact jury evaluations.
13. If the Festival Organizing Committee predicts that a choir's program exceeds 15 minutes, it will guide the choir to adjust the number of pieces accordingly.
14. Choirs must prepare a repertoire of universal and national polyphonic works.
15. Conductors must submit their programs within the specified period. Once submitted, programs cannot be changed.

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16. Conductors must submit their sheet music to the Festival Organizing Committee on time and adhere to the declared repertoire during their performance.
17. If arranged folk songs are included, choirs must strictly follow the arrangement or create original arrangements.
18. Accompaniments must be original. Non-authentic accompaniments will negatively impact jury evaluations.
19. Live accompaniment is mandatory. Pre-recorded backing tracks are not allowed.
20. Choirs must provide their own instruments other than the piano. In addition to the piano already on stage, a maximum of 2 acoustic instruments may be brought for accompaniment. However, a drum kit cannot be set up on stage, and amplifiers or similar equipment are not permitted. Orchestral accompaniment is not accepted.
21. Choirs must strictly adhere to the rehearsal, performance, and schedule as communicated. Choirs must arrive at the festival area at least 45 minutes before their allocated rehearsal time. Latecomers will forfeit their rehearsal rights.
22. Audience members must arrive at the festival area 30 minutes before the performance of their choirs. Audience members may sit in the areas designated by the staff in the Kardelen 1 Hall. Choirs are required to inform the parents/guardians of their members.
23. The Festival Organizing Committee may adjust the stage time of choirs forward or backward according to the festival program flow.
24. Following their performances, choirs are required to take seats in the hall—as directed by the staff—and must remain in the hall until instructed otherwise by the staff, while observing the other choirs.
25. Choirs cannot use visual materials, flags, banners, or slogans representing political views. Clothing with political logos or slogans is also prohibited.
26. Choirs may display their logos, names, or school banners during performances with prior approval from the Festival Management.

Attention:

- Choir officials are responsible for the safekeeping of all personal belongings of the choristers throughout the festival.
- Each choir is required to notify the festival organizing committee in advance regarding the person responsible for their own organization and to provide that individual's contact information.
- Choirs, conductors, and choir officials must comply with all plans and instructions issued by the Sansev teams concerning organization and security throughout the entire festival.
- Starting from April 20, 2027, choirs will be provided with comprehensive information regarding these operational procedures and points to be observed.

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PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK SESSIONS

Choir conductors, trainers, and managers will receive feedback from jury members on repertoire, homogeneity, intonation, timbre, musicality, conducting skills, and more during the break following their segment. Only those who indicate their intent to participate in the feedback session on the application form can attend. Attendance is vital for choirs aiming to improve their performance.

Conductors or trainers who fail to attend the designated session room during the assigned break will forfeit their feedback opportunity.

CHOIR FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION CATEGORIES

- **Mini Choirs:** Ages 3–8
- **Children's Choirs:** Ages 6–14
- **Youth Choirs:** Ages 12–24
- **Women's Choirs:** Ages 16+
- **Men's Choirs:** Ages 16+
- **Mixed Choirs (Adult):** No age limit
- **Vocal Ensembles (3–12 members):** No age limit
- **Thematic choir:** No age limit

Age limits and categories are designed considering Turkey's current conditions to encourage broader participation.

FESTIVAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Choirs wishing to participate must complete the **Application Form** available at https://sansev.org/istkorofest by **December 25, 2026**. Participation is limited by quota.
2. Choirs must submit a video recording of at least 3 minutes showcasing their recent performance within the last year.

   Between December 25, 2026 and January 10, 2027 the selection jury will evaluate these videos to determine festival participation eligibility. Applications without a video will not be considered.
3. Accepted choirs must pay a participation fee of 220 Euro for applications within 10 days of approval. Payments should be made to the following account:

   Bank Account Name: SANSEV (Sanatçılar Sanatseverler Kültür ve Dayanışma Derneği)
   Bank: Ziraat Bankası, İdealtepe Maltepe Branch
   IBAN: TR19 0001 0021 5597 8072 7650 01

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Participation fees include recordings of the choir's special performances and all festival performances at no additional cost. Note: Payment details must include the choir's name.

4. Participation fees are non-refundable. Withdrawal from the festival after confirmation will be considered a donation to SANSEV.
5. Contact details (phone and email) provided on the application form must be accurate and up to date.
6. The festival will take place **May 6-9 May, 2027**, at **Istanbul Maltepe Municipality Prof. Türkan Saylan Cultural Center Kardelen-1 Hall**.
7. Choirs are responsible for their accommodation and transportation. The Festival Management may provide suggestions for hotels, guesthouses, or restaurants if requested by choirs traveling from outside Istanbul.
8. All rights to photos, audio, and video recordings of festival events belong to SANSEV. These materials cannot be used without permission.
9. **The festival program will be announced on March 20, 2027.**

FESTIVAL CATALOGUE

The festival catalogue will be published in digital format in 2027. Choir representatives must submit the following information electronically within seven days of confirmation:

- Choir biography
- Conductor(s) and accompanist(s) biographies
- Group photo of the choir
- Photos of conductor(s) and accompanist(s)
- List of choir members by voice group
- Repertoire list, including the duration of each piece
- Logo and website address of the choir or affiliated institution
- In the repertoire list, each song should be presented in the following format:

  Song title + Composer/Arranger

CERTİFİCATES OF ACHİEVEMENT

1. All choir members participating in the festival will receive certificates of participation, and conductors will be presented with plaques on stage following their performance.
2. With the exception of special awards, the recognitions granted will be designated as "Certificates of Achievement" rather than "awards." Jury members may specify several categories in which they deem a choir to have excelled.

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3. Participating choirs will be evaluated by the Assessment Committee within their respective categories—without being compared against one another—across various criteria. Certificates of Achievement will be sent as high-resolution digital PDF files to the email addresses provided in the Application Form within 4 days of the festival's conclusion.
4. Individual feedback and recommendations from the jury members regarding the performances will be sent to each choir—in a format tailored specifically for them—within one month following the festival.

Achievement Categories

- Achievement in Contemporary Work Interpretation
- Achievement in Accompanied Work Interpretation
- Achievement in Diction, Articulation, and Clarity
- Achievement in Children's Polyphonic Song Interpretation
- Achievement in Musicality
- Achievement in Stage Aesthetics (For Children's Choirs)
- Achievement in Solo Performance Interpretation
- Achievement in Choir-Conductor Harmony
- Achievement in Polyphonic Folk Music Interpretation
- Achievement in Canon Performance
- Achievement in Jazz Music Interpretation
- Achievement in Popular Music Interpretation
- Achievement in Musical Work Interpretation
- Achievement in Rhythmic Coordination
- Achievement in Program Diversity
- Achievement in A Cappella Performance
- Achievement in Choral Tone

Special Awards

- Jury Encouragement Award (Children's Choir)
- Jury Encouragement Award (Fine Arts High School)
- Jury Encouragement Award (Youth Choir)
- Jury Encouragement Award (Mixed Choir)
- Promising Conductor Special Award (Two conductors)
- Achievement in Accompaniment Special Award
- Honorary Composer Award (for the choirs that best perform a composition by Nedim Yıldız)
- Sponsor Awards
- Eco-friendly Choir (for children's choirs that leave their rehearsal rooms and backstage areas clean and tidy, and collect their own trash)

Note: Festival award categories may be subject to change.

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Choirs whose conductors serve on the jury will be excluded from the evaluation; while they will receive certificates of participation, they will not be awarded certificates of achievement.

FESTIVAL CLOSING CEREMONY

- Polyphonic Music Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony
- Festival Closing Event,

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